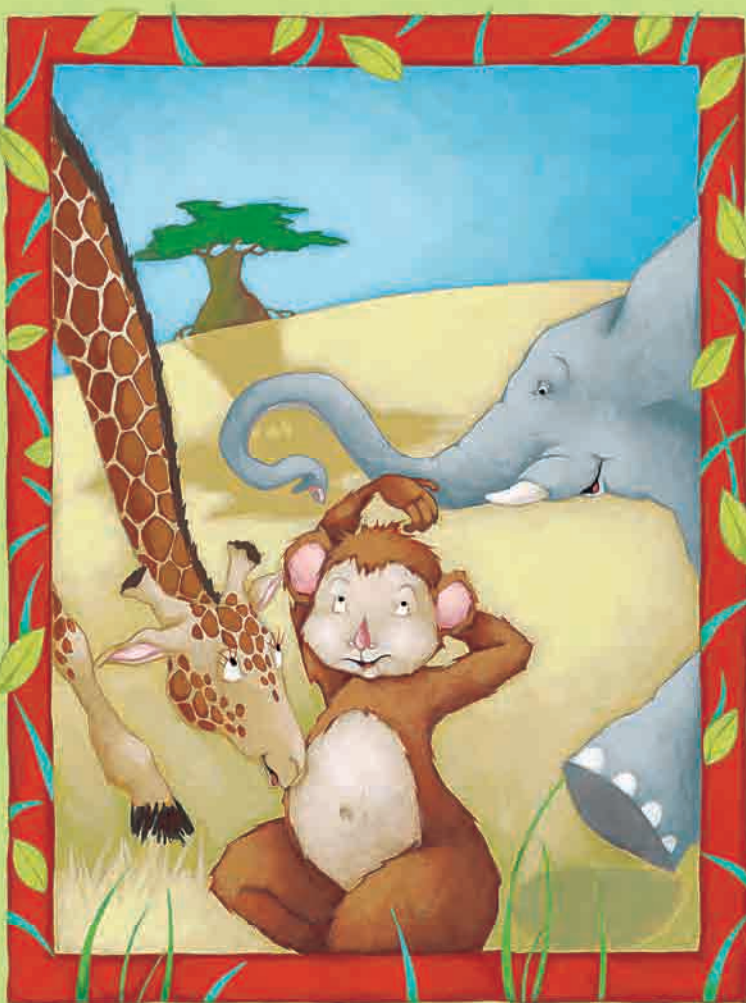
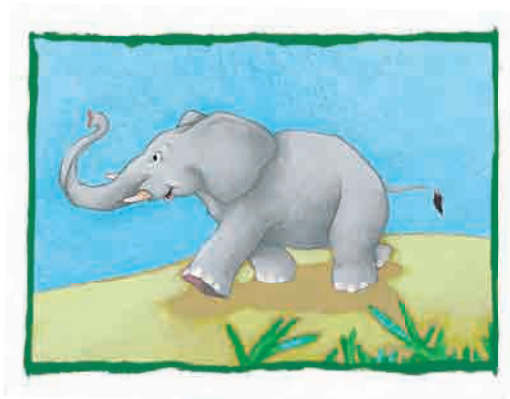


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The Bad Itch

by Ilissa Rose

illustrated by Laurence Cleyet-Merle





I have such an itch!

It itches so much.

The itch is on the arch of my back.

I cannot reach it.

Let me see if a pal can help scratch it.

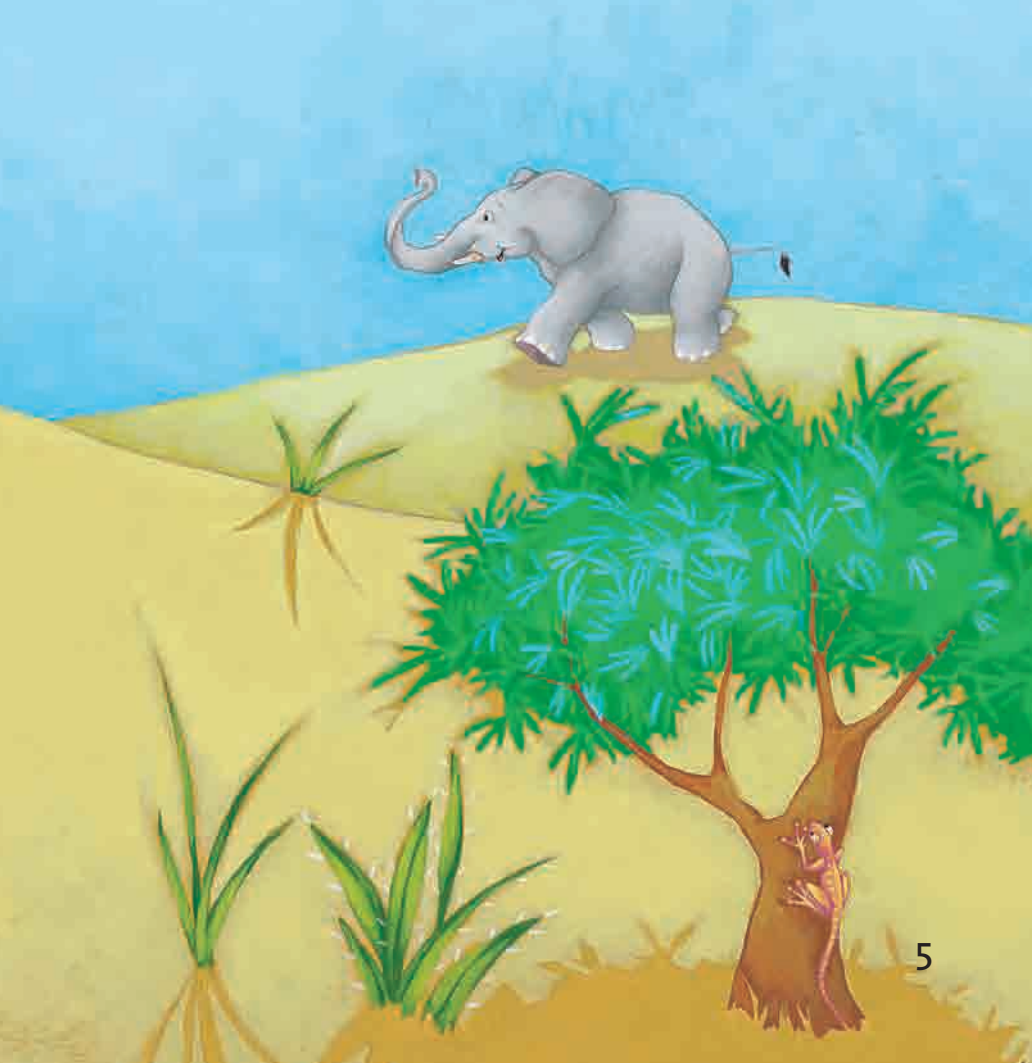
I see Chad on his patch of grass.
Chad is a pal of mine.
Can Chad help scratch my itch?
I will go chat with Chad.





There is a big glitch.
Chad cannot scratch my itch with his neck.
What will I do now?
Let me see if a pal can help scratch it.

I see Chuck.
Chuck is such a good chap.
Can Chuck help scratch my itch?
I will march up the hill and see.





There is a big glitch.

Chuck cannot scratch my itch with his trunk.

What will I do now?

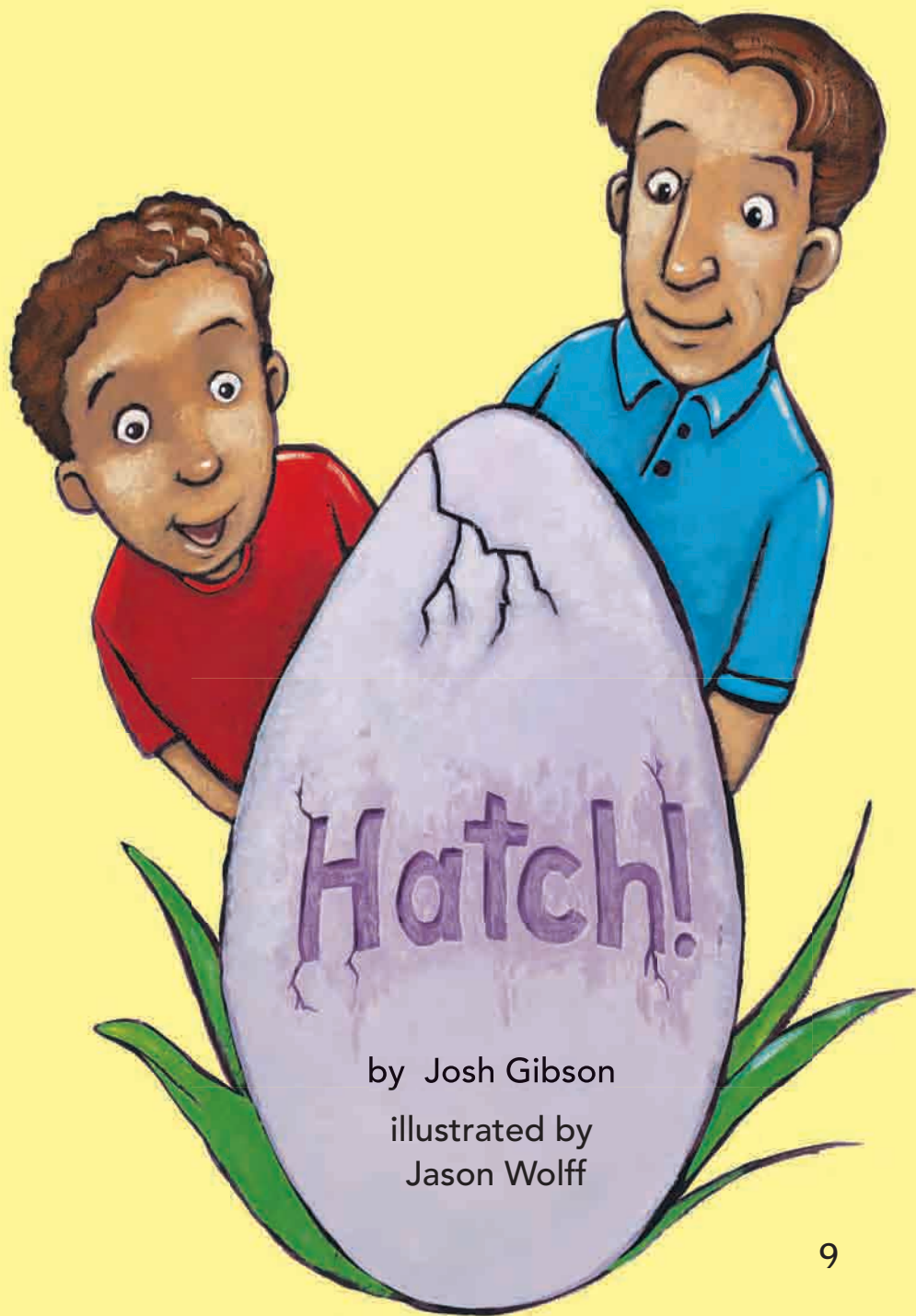
Let me see if my mom can help scratch it.

I see my Mom by a big tree.
Mom is so smart.
Will Mom help scratch my itch?
I bet my Mom can help me.





Mom has a neat trick.
She teaches me to use the big tree.
Now I can scratch my back by myself.
I can scratch my itch!



by Josh Gibson

illustrated by
Jason Wolff



It is a fine day on the ranch. Chase and Dad will hike in the gulch. Chase stands at the rim. He sees rocks and pine trees.

Chase sees a ditch and spies inside.
Chase sees a bright green snake. It is
slim and has blotches on its side. Dad
tells him it will not harm him, but Chase
sits still.



In a patch of shade, Chase sees a clutch—a bunch of eggs. This clutch has five eggs. Each egg is an inch wide. Chase hopes the clutch will hatch.





The sun blazes in the gulch. It gets hot. Chase is parched. He and Dad hike back to the ranch for lunch and a drink.

Chase eats. It gets dark. It rains. The ranch is drenched. Chase stays in. The next day, Chase stays in again. He does not make it back to the gulch.





Weeks pass, and Chase has a hunch. Chase fetches Dad and they race to the gulch. Chase reaches the ditch and peeks inside.

Chase and Dad are just in time. The clutch is hatching. Bit by bit, the eggs chip, crack, and split. It is such a grand sight!



Flash Gets a Shave

by Debbie O'Brien
illustrated by Lee Harper





Flash is a sheep. She lives
on a sheep farm with Tish and
Shep the dog.



Flash and the sheep like the farm. They eat grass and play in the sun each day.



One day, Flash gets a shock. Tish takes a sheep in the shed. When the sheep leaves the shed, it has no coat. Tish gave it a shave!

Each sheep gets a shave.
“Now it is time for you, Flash,”
Tish tells her.

Flash runs off and hides next
to a big bush. Shep sees Flash.
Shep sends Flash in the shed.



Flash gets free. She runs off and hides next to a shrub. Shep sees her tail shake. He sends Flash back in the shed.





Flash gets free again. She runs off and hides in a shack. It is dark inside, and Flash slips. Shep hears a dish and glass crash. He sends Flash back in the shed.

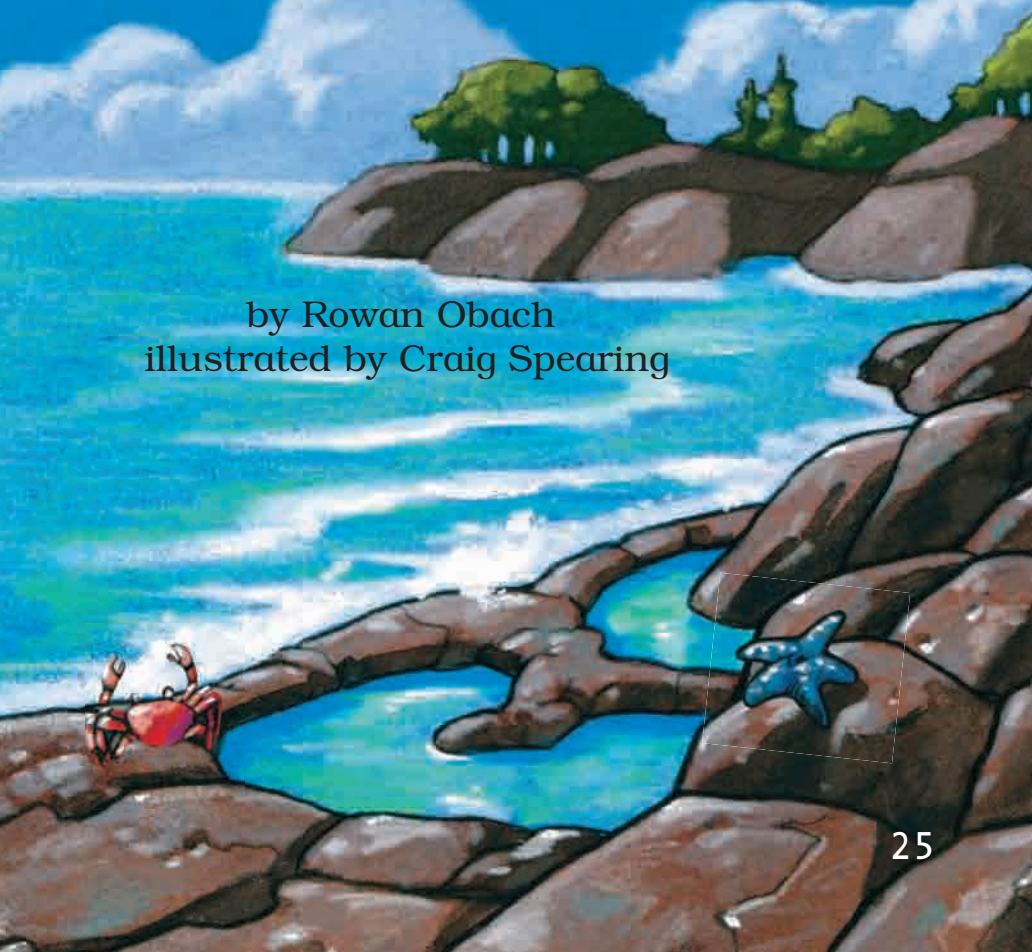


This time, Tish has a plan. She shows Flash a vest. “Flash, I will shave you,” she tells her. “But I will get a vest to keep you warm.”

Flash gets a shave, but she gets a vest, too.

Shark Cove

by Rowan Obach
illustrated by Craig Spearing





Take a trip to Shark Cove. The beach at Shark Cove is made of rocks of many shapes and sizes. Ships can crash and sink on its hard, sharp rocks.



Swish! Each day the tide rushes in at Shark Cove. Waves crash and splash.

Swish! Each day the tide rushes out at Shark Cove. Some water stays in holes in the rocks. Sea animals make homes in the holes.



Crabs live in shallow holes in the rocks. A crab has a hard shell. It helps keep it safe from the crashing waves.

Snails stay in holes where big waves cannot crush them. A snail has a shell, too. Its shell keeps its soft inside safe.





A crashing wave has tossed this sea star on the rocks. A sharp rock has gashed its arm. Soon the arm will drop off. A fresh arm will grow in its spot.

Fish splish and splash in deep
holes. They stay deep where the sun
does not shine. Fish like it in the
dark shadows.



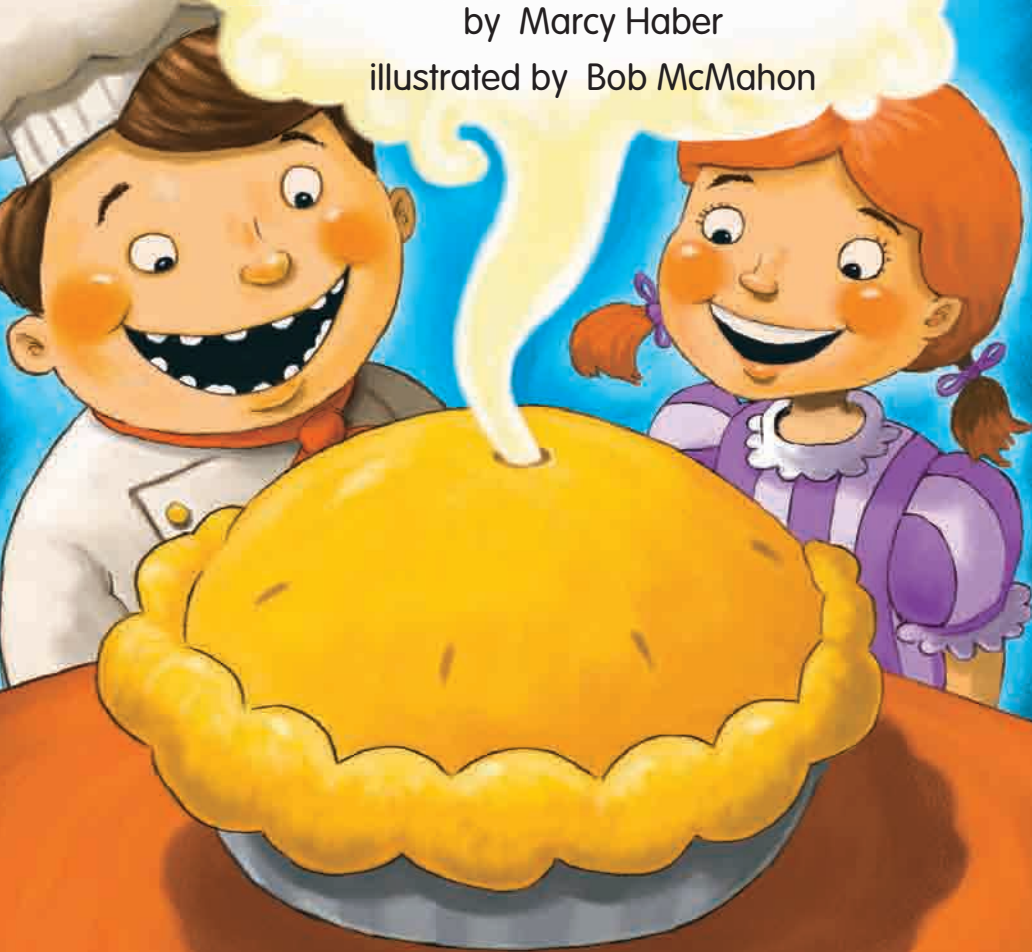


As you can see, Shark Cove has lots of sea life hidden in its rocks. Dash over and take a look!

Beth, Seth, and the Pie Contest

by Marcy Haber

illustrated by Bob McMahon



This is a tale about Beth and Seth Thack.
They live in Thip. Beth and Seth Thack like to
bake lots of things like cakes and pies.





This week there is a pie contest in Thip.
The rules say that the pies can be thick
and thin.



Beth and Seth think it will be a thrill to win that pie contest. “We will bake the best pie in Thip,” they say. “It will not be too thick. It will not be too thin.”

Beth and Seth throw lots of things in the pie mix. They toss in a bit of this and a bit of that. At last, it is finished.

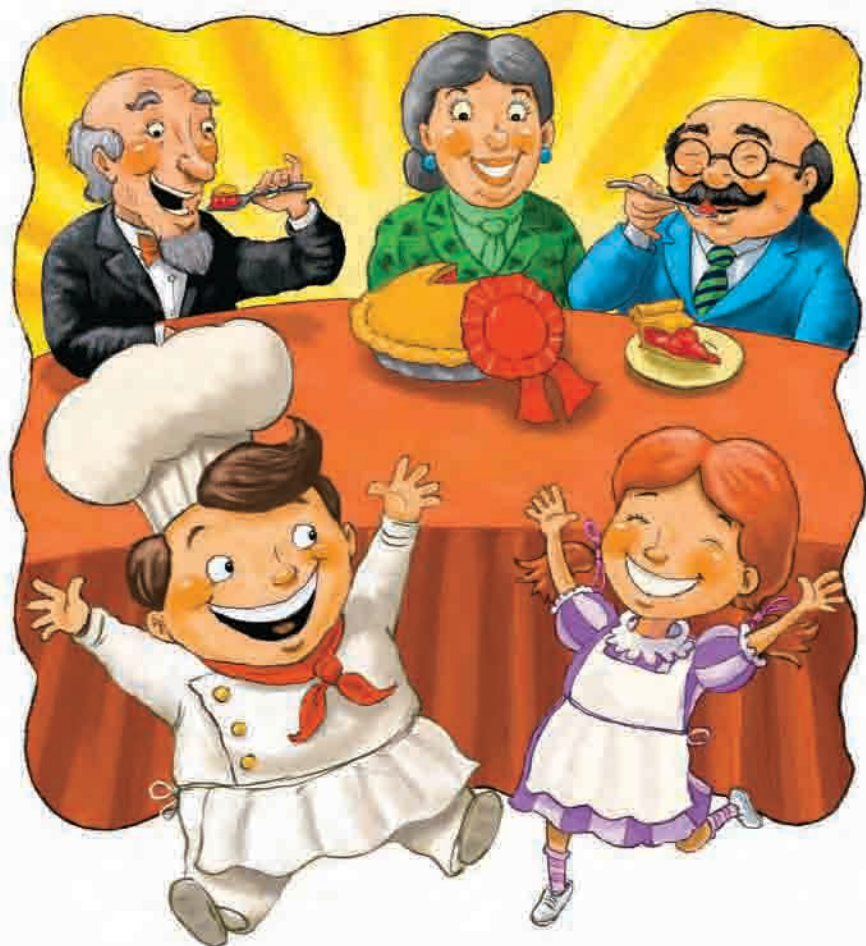




Beth and Seth take the pie to the contest. They cannot wait until people sink their teeth into it.

One by one, the three people taste each pie. "This pie is too thick," they say. "This pie is too thin," they say.





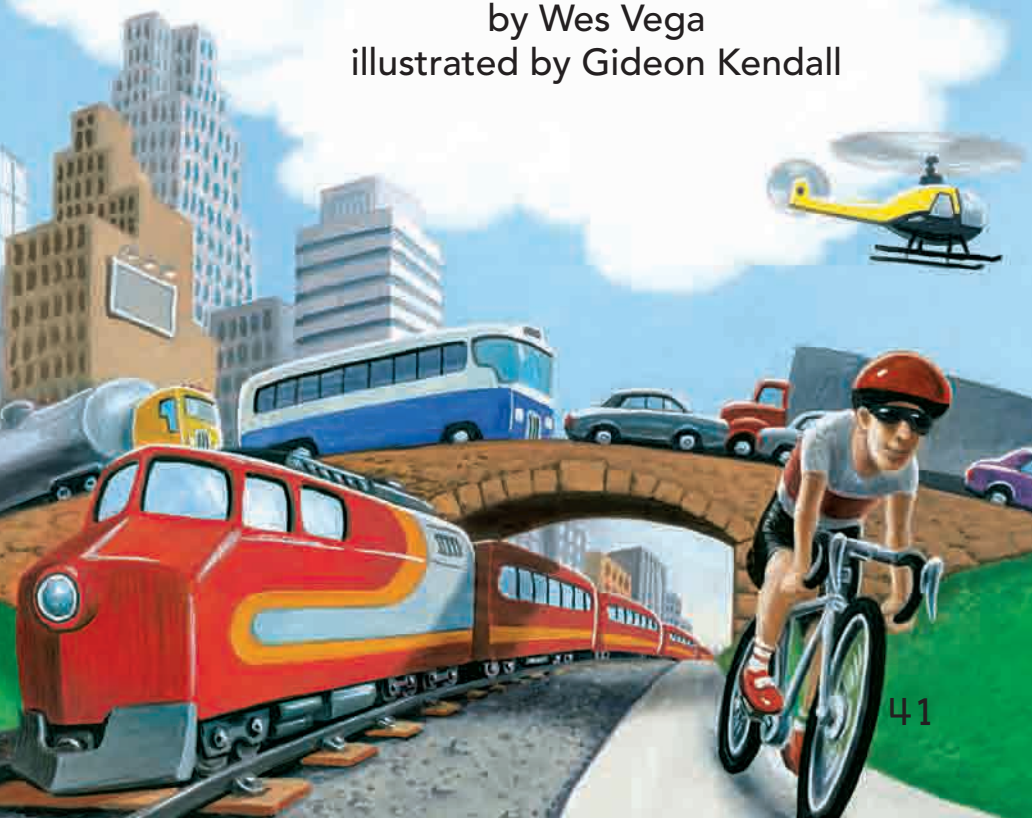
At last, they taste the pie that Beth and Seth made. "This pie is not too thick and not too thin," they say. "This pie wins!"

Beth and Seth jump up and down with a thump, thump, thump!



These Are the Ways That We Travel

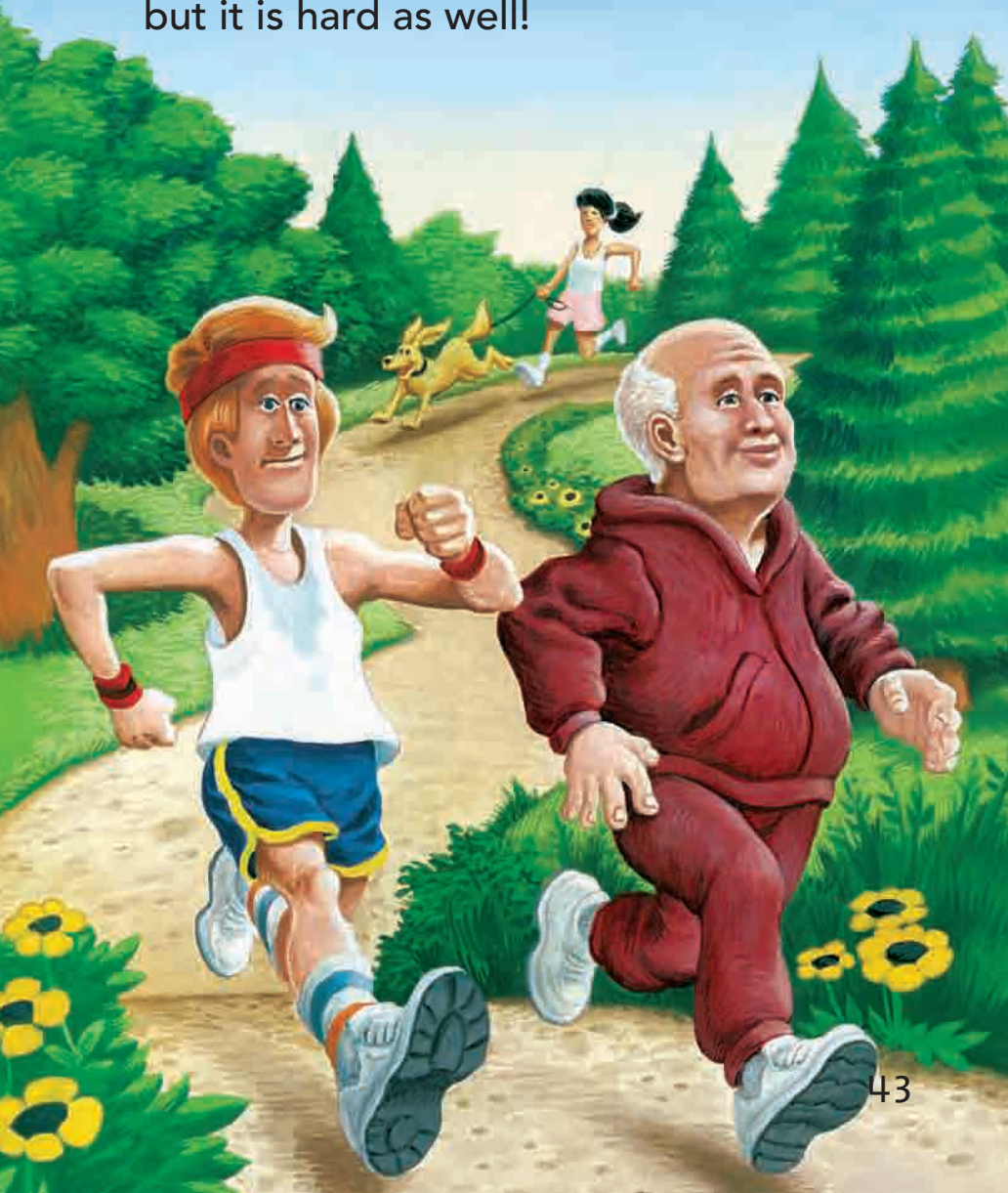
by Wes Vega
illustrated by Gideon Kendall





There are lots of ways that we travel.
These are ways that we do it.

We can jog and run on a thin path.
Some people think that it is fun doing
these things with a pal. This can be fun,
but it is hard as well!





We can ride in a bus and car. A car is fine if you like being with people that you like. On buses, you can make lots of friends. That can be fun.

If you like being at sea, then there are three fine ways to travel. You can row, sail, and zip in speed boats that go fast.

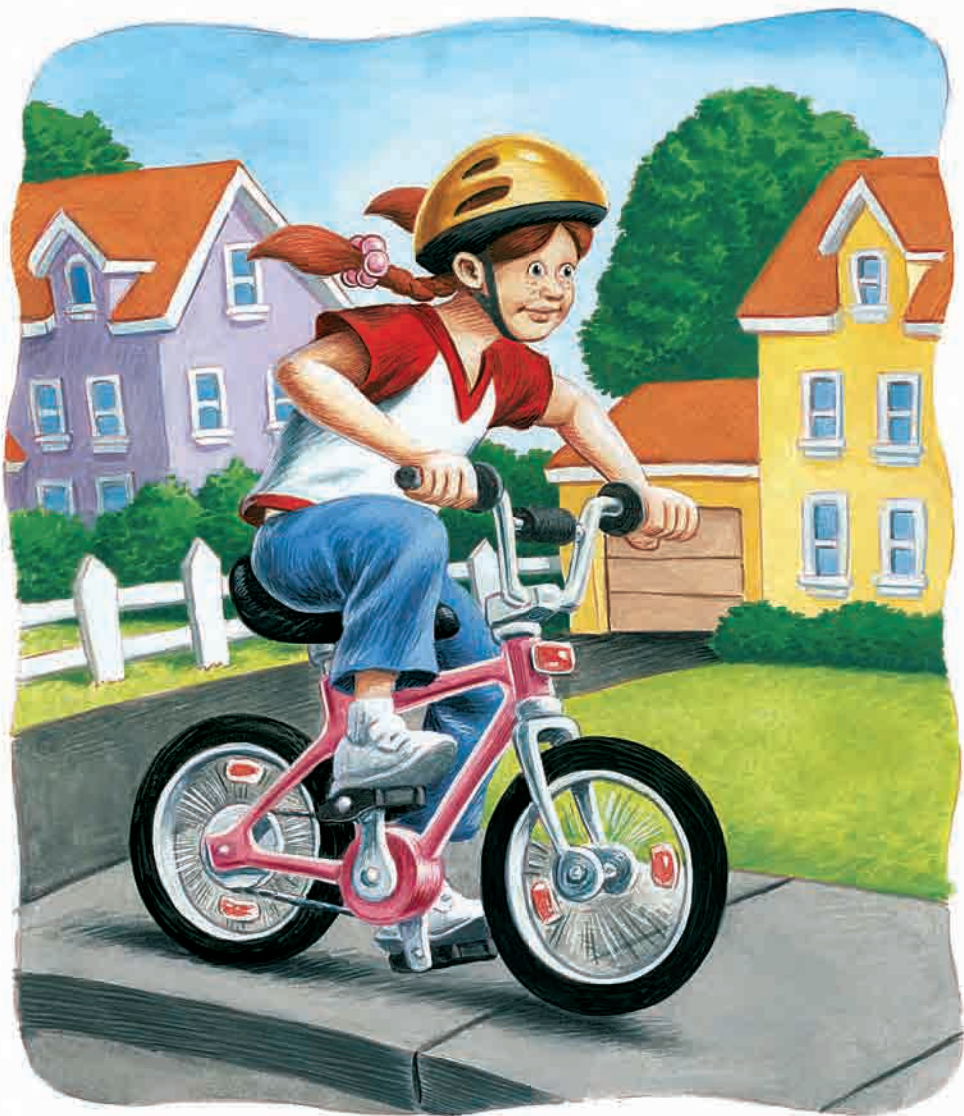




If you need to go far, then a jet is the best way to go. These fly fast in the sky. It can be a thrill to go that fast! Try it and see.

Do you think that we may visit the stars one day? Think about the ways that we will get up to them! This rocket may take you.





This is just one way that you might travel each day. Think about other ways that you do it, too.

The Bad Itch

Word Count: 191

High-Frequency Words

by
do
good
have
my
myself
now
of
she
to
there
what

Decodable Words*

a	is
an	it
and	itch
arch	itches
back	let
bad	march
bet	me
big	mine
by	Mom
can	much
cannot	neat
Chad	neck
chap	on
chat	pal
Chuck	patch
glitch	reach
go	scratch
grass	see
has	smart
help	so
hill	such
his	teaches
I	the
if	tree

**Boldface words indicate sound-spelling introduced in this story.*

(continued)

Decodable Words*

trick

trunk

up

use

will

with

**Boldface words indicate sound-spelling introduced in this story.*

Hatch

Word Count: 196

High-Frequency Words

again
are
by
does
for
of
they
to

Decodable Words*

a	fetches
an	fine
and	five
at	gets
back	grand
bit	green
blazes	gulch
blotches	harm
bright	has
bunch	hatch
but	hatching
Chase	he
chip	hike
clutch	him
crack	hopes
Dad	hot
dark	hunch
day	in
ditch	inch
drenched	inside
drink	is
each	it
eats	its
egg	just
eggs	lunch

**Boldface words indicate sound-spelling introduced in this story.*

(continued)

Decodable Words*

make	stays
next	still
not	such
on	sun
parched	tells
pass	the
patch	this
peeks	time
pine	trees
race	weeks
rains	wide
ranch	will
reaches	
rim	
rocks	
sees	
shade	
side	
sight	
sits	
slim	
snake	
spies	
split	
stands	

**Boldface words indicate sound-spelling introduced in this story.*

Flash Gets A Shave

Word Count: 195

High-Frequency Words

again
for
her
lives
now
one
they
to
too
you

Decodable Words*

a	I
and	in
back	inside
big	is
bush	it
but	keep
coat	leaves
crash	like
dark	next
day	no
dish	off
dog	on
each	plan
eat	play
farm	runs
Flash	sees
free	sends
gave	shack
get	shake
gets	shave
glass	she
grass	shed
has	sheep
he	Shep
hears	shock
hides	

**Boldface words indicate sound-spelling introduced in this story.*

(continued)

Decodable Words*

shows

shrub

slips

sun

tail

takes

tells

the

this

time

Tish

vest

warm

when

will

with

**Boldface words indicate sound-spelling introduced in this story.*

Shark Cove

Word Count: 193

High-Frequency Words

animals
does
from
live
look
many
of
out
over
some
soon
they
to
too
water
where
you

Decodable Words*

a	grow
and	hard
arm	has
as	helps
at	hidden
beach	holes
big	homes
by	in
can	inside
cannot	is
cove	it
crab	its
crabs	keep
crash	keeps
crashing	life
crush	like
dark	lots
dash	made
day	make
deep	not
drop	off
each	on
fish	rock
fresh	rocks
gashed	rushes

**Boldface words indicate sound-spelling introduced in this story.*

(continued)

Decodable Words*

safe	the
sea	them
see	this
shadows	tide
shallow	tossed
shapes	trip
shark	wave
sharp	waves
shell	will
shine	
ships	
sink	
sizes	
snail	
snails	
soft	
splash	
splish	
spot	
star	
stay	
stays	
sun	
swish	
take	

**Boldface words indicate sound-spelling introduced in this story.*

Beth, Seth, and the Pie Contest

Word Count: 201

High-Frequency Words

about
by
down
into
live
of
one
people
their
there
they
to
too

Decodable Words*

a	pies
and	rules
at	say
bake	Seth
be	sink
best	take
Beth	tale
bit	taste
cakes	teeth
can	Thack
cannot	that
contest	the
each	thick
finished	thin
in	things
is	think
it	Thip
jump	this
last	three
like	thrill
lots	throw
made	thump
mix	toss
not	until
pie	up

**Boldface words indicate sound-spelling introduced in this story.*

(continued)

Decodable Words*

wait

we

week

will

win

wins

with

**Boldface words indicate sound-spelling introduced in this story.*

These Are the Ways That We Travel

Word Count: 195

High-Frequency Words

about
are
do
doing
fly
friends
of
one
other
people
sky
some
there
to
too
try
you

Decodable Words*

a	it
and	jet
as	jog
at	just
be	like
being	lots
best	make
boats	may
bus	might
buses	need
but	on
can	pal
car	path
day	ride
each	rocket
far	row
fast	run
fine	sail
fun	sea
get	see
go	speed
hard	stars
if	take
in	that
is	the

**Boldface words indicate sound-spelling introduced in this story.*

(continued)

Decodable Words*

them

then

these

thin

things

think

this

three

thrill

travel

up

visit

way

ways

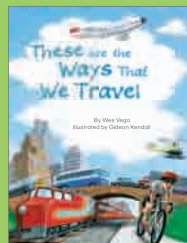
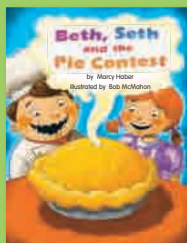
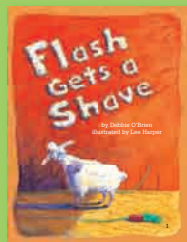
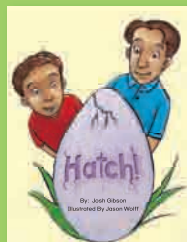
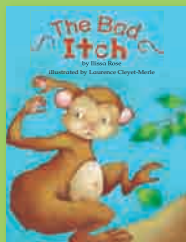
we

well

with

zip

**Boldface words indicate sound-spelling introduced in this story.*



Digraph /ch/ ch, tch

Digraph /sh/ sh

Digraph /th/ th

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